

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Jonathan Swan, Mike Allen (/Community/mikeallen) Jan 23

## Trumpworld prepares to hammer the EPA

Steve Helber / AP

We got a sneaky look at the Trump transition team's EPA "agency action" plan. It's the guiding (aspirational) document written by Myron Ebell of the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

One of the striking aspects of the document was its language about the agency's use of scientific research and economic analysis to justify its actions. A section titled 'Addendum on the problems with EPA science' leads with this paragraph:

*EPA does not use science to guide regulatory policy as much as it uses regulatory policy to steer the science. This is an old problem at EPA. In 1992, a blue-ribbon panel of EPA science advisers that [sic] 'science should not be adjusted to fit policy.' But rather than heed this advice, EPA has greatly increased its science manipulation.*

The document goes on to recommend what can be done to "improve the use of science by EPA":

EPA should not be funding scientific research

If EPA uses scientific data for regulation, that data must be publicly available so independent scientists can review it

EPA's science advisory process needs to be overhauled to eliminate conflicts of interest and inherent bias

Science standards need to be developed and implemented to ensure that science policy decisions and epidemiological practices are based on sound science

**What you should know:** A Republican who knows more than most about aspirations colliding with political reality, gives Axios some smart analysis. "It represents a think-tank wish list of possible EOs and budget cuts," he says. He cautioned that this could scare moderate Republicans who want to avoid being tagged as anti-environment.

**A tipster gives us three important contextual points regarding the executive orders:**[Sign In](#)

1. They may be able to implement some of them administratively, but there will be discomfort amongst some Republicans and it will cost the Administration political capital.
2. It is not a binary process. In other words, they can't just overturn them, it may take some time if they are already in the process of being implemented and opponents will have legal recourse to challenge some of the actions.
3. There are huge, entrenched bureaucracies at these agencies, and especially at EPA, which is filled with true believers on the environmental movement, climate change, clean water and air. These thousands of people will dig in and make it very difficult for the thin layer of political appointees atop these agencies to move quickly to undo their years of work to put these things in place.

**Update:** Axios contacted Myron Ebell for comment Sunday night about the action plan, and he didn't dispute the content. After we posted, Ebell said there is a more recent version, with both overlap and differences. He said that because both documents are confidential, he can't say what changed.

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POLITICS (JAVASCRIPT:;)



Dan Primack (/Community/danprimack) 26 mins ago

### 3 takeaways from a VC summit

1. Many Silicon Valley firms have begun spending significant time outside of traditional tech hotbeds.
2. Sovereign wealth funds have slowed down their startup investment pace.
3. There has been a major uptick in non-tech companies seeking to buy tech startups.

**On that last one:** It would seem that the "staying private longer" trend has artificially reduced the number of potential tech startup acquirers, since the next-gen of tech buyers doesn't yet have a public currency.

BUSINESS (JAVASCRIPT:;)



Kim Hart (/Community/khart) 30 mins ago

### India's tech sector starts lobbying against H-1B visa changes





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## Climate Science Denier Myron Ebell Explains How the Trump Team Will Gut the EPA, Abandon the Paris Agreement <sup>[1]</sup>

[Ben Jervey](#) <sup>[2]</sup> | January 31, 2017

By [Ben Jervey](#) <sup>[2]</sup> • Tuesday, January 31, 2017 - 14:05





As senators get set to vote Wednesday on the confirmation of President Donald Trump's nominee to run the EPA [3], the man who was charged with leading the Environmental Protection Agency's transition team gave some clues as to how it might be run.

Myron Ebell [4] is one of the country's most prominent climate science deniers, is the Director of Energy and Environment [5] at the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) [6], and until inauguration day was leading the EPA transition team at the behest of the then president-elect.

At a press event in London on Monday, attended and covered by DeSmog UK's Mat Hope [7], Ebell admitted that he had never actually spoken to Trump, and that he was recruited to the transition team by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie.

What did Ebell's transition team actually do?

"We did produce an action plan and an advisory document," he said, but refused to discuss the contents of the "confidential" document. Coincidentally, in December, the CEI released a set of policy proposals called "Free to Prosper: A Pro-growth agenda for the 155<sup>th</sup> Congress" [8], which included a 26-page chapter on energy and the environment, though there is no way of knowing for sure if there is any overlap between the CEI proposal and Ebell's action plan.

Although Ebell is no longer involved with the administration in any way, he made bold predictions and spoke confidently about how the Trump team would work to dismantle the EPA and pull out of the Paris Agreement, while finding plenty of time to bash the "climate industrial complex" and deny the consensus of climate scientists.

"The people of America have rejected the 'expertariat' about one thing after another including climate policy... climate scientists are in this for the glamour and the fame."

"If we're going to have some warming it should have started... it has been vastly exaggerated."

Ebell indicated that Trump's trust in Steve Bannon, the controversial former manager of Breitbart News who is now one of Trump's closest advisors, was proof enough that Trump's administration would take a torch to international climate action.

When pressed by reporters on the Paris Agreement, who brought up the fact that Secretary of State nominee Rex Tillerson said in his confirmation hearing that "it's important that the U.S. maintains its seat at the table," Ebell seemed confident that Tillerson wouldn't get his way. "If Rex Tillerson disagrees with the president — who will win that? The president was elected and Rex Tillerson was appointed. I'd say the president was odds on to win."

He also said that even if the U.S. wasn't able to ditch the Paris Agreement immediately, the "cleanest" way to abandon the deal would be to "withdraw from the framework convention" entirely. Ebell was referring to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the body that holds the annual climate conferences and serves as the overarching body under which all international climate diplomacy is conducted.



Speaking specifically about the EPA, Ebell suggested that after Pruitt is confirmed, the agency will make a priority of stripping “harmful” air and water pollution regulations, and that the web of climate-related rules and actions would be systematically dismantled. Of the Climate Action Plan in particular, Ebell said, “There are numerous grounds that it should be undone and I hope that it will be undone.”

Ebell did not mention, however, that the EPA's climate regulations stem from a 2007 Supreme Court ruling <sup>[9]</sup> that held that greenhouse gases are air pollutants that should be covered by the Clean Air Act.

Ebell was speaking as a man no longer serving in the administration, as he resigned when Trump took office and presumably wasn't asked to stay on board to lead the “beachhead” teams that are now lining the agency up for Pruitt's likely arrival <sup>[10]</sup>.

Some are speculating that Ebell's move away is a sign that the Trump team is shifting away from the extreme climate deniers of the far right <sup>[11]</sup>, and replacing them with personnel, like Tillerson, who at least publicly acknowledge the existence of manmade climate change. Regardless, it will be critical to track the early actions of the EPA after Pruitt presumably takes the helm, to see how they align with proposals that CEI put forth in December. For his part, Ebell is back at the fossil fuel industry-funded CEI full time.

*Main image: Myron Ebell, right, discusses the EPA transition under Trump while at a London event. Credit: DeSmog UK, CC BY-SA*

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[8] <https://cei.org/sites/default/files>

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[9] [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-08/documents/endangermentfinding\\_legalbasis.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-08/documents/endangermentfinding_legalbasis.pdf)

[10] <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060048813>

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